

Below copy of the Government Circular, Political and Services Department, No.CDR-2057, dated the 3rd July 1957.

CONFIDENTIAL

Government Administration :

Measures to eradicate corruption from -

The attention of Collectors and Heads of Departments has already been drawn in Chief Secretary's Demi-Official letter No.CDR-2057-D, dated the 21st June 1957 to Government's grave concern at the persistent evil of corruption. Concerted measures are necessary to eradicate this evil particularly at the lower levels of administration which touch the citizens most often. It is however regrettable that Departments have not so far exhibited that degree of keenness, resolution or vigilance which results in the initiation of positive measures to detect and stamp out corruption. Government therefore desire to impress once again on the Heads of Departments as well as District Officers their responsibilities in this regard. It is felt that it would improve the moral tone of the administration and create a greater realisation of departmental responsibility in this behalf if the collection of preliminary intelligence and initiation of action are ordinarily done by the Departments and the Anti-Corruption Police is associated only at the stage of detailed investigation. This would not, of course, preclude bringing in the Anti-Corruption police at an earlier stage if this is considered necessary and in any case the closest liaison between the Departments and the Anti-Corruption police is absolutely necessary.

2. With these objectives in view Government desire that the following action should be taken :-

(i) The Heads of each administrative Department of the Government should constitute a Committee composed of 3 to 4 officers and representative of different levels of administration i.e. Regional District and Sub-Divisional and of proved integrity. The Deputy Inspector-General of Police (Anti-Corruption and Prohibition Intelligence) or his nominee should be invited to attend the meetings of the Committee. The names of the officers constituting the Committee may be intimated to Government and also to the Deputy Inspector-General of Police. (Anti-Corruption and Prohibition Intelligence). The functions of the Committee would be :-

(a) To help the Anti-Corruption police to know the modus operandi of corruption in the particular Department.

(b) To list the most important cases in which there is considerable scope for corruption.

(c) To examine and suggest changes in the rules and procedure which could diminish the opportunities for corruption, and

(d) To draw up a list of those whose general reputation for integrity is bad and whose activities need to be watched.

(ii) The above Committee should meet at least every two months and oftener in the initial stages. They should also keep in close touch with the departmental Anti-Corruption Committee

and pass on intelligence to the Collector and the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Anti-Corruption and Prohibition Intelligence for necessary action.

(iii) In each District and Anti-Corruption Committee which will be in addition to any similar committees that may be in existence, consisting of the Collector, the Executive Engineer, the District Superintendent of Police and the Divisional Forest Officer (if there is forest staff in the district) should be set up. The District heads of other departments should be associated with the Committee in specific cases where necessary. The Collector will however be generally responsible for the eradication of corruption in all the departments in his district.

(iv) The District Committees which should meet at least once a month, should look into the complaints including anonymous letters containing concrete details and collect preliminary information. Where detailed investigation into the complaint is considered necessary the assistance of the Anti-Corruption police should be taken. For collection of preliminary intelligence the district committees may devise such methods as may be considered fit in regard to the conditions prevailing in a particular district. Though the scope of the Functions of District Committees will be to take Anti-Corruption measures in all departments, it may eventually be desirable to concentrate effort in certain departments e.g., Revenue, Police, Sales Tax, Public Works Department and Forest. The District Committee may ask all the Gazetted Officers in the district to pass on to it the information bearing on corruption.

(v) Delay in disposal is often the root cause of corruption and in this connection it is suggested that habitual disregard for prescribed procedure and delays which give scope for corruption should be dealt with severely. Both the Committees should also make efforts to procure positive evidence against persons whose general reputation for integrity is bad.

(vi) The Committee should ensure that Top Priority is given to departmental inquiries relating to corruption and that officers suspected of corruption are transferred.

(vii) As corruption is particularly rampant at the lower levels it is important to bring home to officers at the sub-divisional and taluka level their responsibilities in this respect. They should be informed that their general performance will also be assessed by the keenness they display in bringing up legal cases of corruption. Where cases are detected independently of their own efforts, the Head of Department should examine whether the superior officers concerned could not be held responsible for lack of vigilance and supervision.

The Heads of Departments and the Collectors should submit to Government Quarterly Review of the work done by the Departmental Committees and the District Committees respectively. The first report will be for the quarter ending September 1957 and should reach the Government by the 15th October 1957.